STUART SYMINGTON
Offset Soviets

Symington Pleads For A-Tests

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Immediate U. S. resumption of nuclear testing in the atmosphere was urged here today by Sen. Stuart Symington.

The Missouri Democrat said this is essential to offset recent Russian experiments in the atmosphere.

Symington said results of the Soviet tests, "with respect to their progress (in the nuclear race), are appalling."

President Kennedy has said the United States may be forced to resume tests in the atmosphere to protect its nuclear weapons lead.

"ALL IN FAVOR"

Symington, a member of the important Armed Services, Aeronautical and Space Sciences and Foreign Relations committees, said "all of us who have studied the matter favor testing as soon as possible."

His remarks were made before a luncheon meeting of the Dade County Bar Association at the Columbus Hotel.

Noting that the U. S. has yet to test a missile with a live warhead, Symington declared:

"We believe they (the Russians) tested anti-missile missiles in their latest tests."

RADAR BLOCKING

He said that of even more importance was the fact the Soviets have been exploring the possibility of blotting out communications and radar detection for extensive periods of time by nuclear explosions.

"By mixing our instruments, they would prevent us from retaliating accurately," Symington said.

The senator, who was once secretary of the Air Force, was critical of U. S. Intelligence and complimented President Kennedy for undertaking to reorganize the department.

'TOTAL IGNORANCE'

He said that perhaps the greatest failure of Intelligence was "our total ignorance of the extensive plans the Russians had been making for at least a year and a half to test in the atmosphere."

Based on events over the last five years, Symington said, "One begins to wonder whether or not this (Intelligence) is the weak link in our security."

Speaking on the importance of Cape Canaveral to U. S. security, Symington said: "If we control space, we will be able to maintain freedom (throughout the world)."